



Intelligence Corps – Operator Technical Intelligence (OPTI)

Manui Dat Cognitio Vires

Knowledge gives strength to the arm

The Intelligence Corps is one of the smallest Corps in the British Army with approximately 1850 serving Officers and soldiers.

What the Corps lacks in size, it more than makes up for in impact and influence.

Modern military operations are increasingly led by and dependent upon the provision of accurate, timely intelligence. Effective intelligence gives commanders confidence while planning and executing operations. The Intelligence Corps provides commanders with this confidence through the maintenance of constant situational awareness and intelligence to support their decision making process, whilst at the same time protecting our own operations from hostile interests.

The Intelligence Corps covers the entire range of potential intelligence; from strategic government level to operational contingency planning and increasingly, tactical support to ground units.

As an Operator Technical Intelligence soldier, you will work alongside other arms, services and government departments supporting UK interests both at home and abroad. You do not need a background or qualifications in languages to work within this trade. You will be paid to learn operationally focussed languages and signals intelligence analysis techniques, equipping you with the right tools to produce intelligence supporting real-time operations.

From a very early point in your career you will be given responsibility. You will specialise in the interception and analysis of various communications. To do this you will work with complex, state-of-the-art computers and communications equipment.

As an OPTI soldier you will become a specialist in signals intelligence analysis. It is likely that you will then go on to become a linguist. As a linguist you will be given opportunities develop now or improve on existing language skills or learn other languages through your career.

You will have the opportunity to support other government departments responsible for countering threats to national security and our own troops deployed on operations. You will also have the opportunity to work within human intelligence, the acquisition of intelligence from human sources, as an interpreter at the Defence HUMINT Unit.

You can also further specialise in signals intelligence and geospatial analysis, or increasingly into the cyber analysis domain. All these skills are challenging and rewarding; requiring a high level of self-motivation and commitment.

You will normally be employed in the UK with some overseas postings, mainly on short term (normally six month) operational deployments. Here you will employ your language and analysis skills and hone your specialist knowledge to produce complex intelligence reports.

Language Training

Languages currently taught are Arabic, Farsi and French. Other languages such as Russian and Spanish are available later in your career. Languages are taught by native speakers and you will be mentored throughout the course by experienced military linguists.

As well as academic language training, you will need to understand the peoples of your region, so cultural awareness and country-specific geography is taught throughout the course. Course lengths vary and can be up to 18 months long. On completion of your training you will join your unit as a Lance Corporal. The average time in each rank is three years, and you could normally expect promotion to Corporal during your first tour. For those who become Senior NCOs and wish to become Warrant Officers you will be expected to work in a supervisory capacity, where you will be responsible for the training and welfare of junior soldiers.

What are we looking for?

- A minimum of 5 GCSE, or equivalents at C or above, with one coming in English Language and the other four in academic subjects
- GTI score of 55 or above
- British Army assessment grade A or B
- Flexibility and the ability to adapt to any situation
- Physical and mental robustness
- Communication skills
- Potential

What can we offer you?

- Real responsibility at a very junior level in your career
- A varied and challenging career
- Your work will impact on real time operations and campaign planning
- You will work with some of the brightest and most capable soldiers in the British Army

Developed Vetting is required for all Intelligence Corps personnel, and the majority of personnel require additional clearances. All security clearances are assessed on a case by case basis; there are certain criteria which must be met, including 10 years residency in the UK. Further advice on your individual background and circumstances is available from the Intelligence Corps representatives.

If you are interested please speak to a member of the Corps Engagement Team

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